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PATENT

Case Docket No. HIKAR1.001APC
Date: February 26, 2003

1632

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : Katsumata et al.
Appl. No. : 09/762,568
Filed : February 6, 2001
For : NOVEL PLASMA VECTOR
Examiner : Unknown
Group Art Unit : Unknown

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all
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Arlington, VA 22202, on

February 26, 2003

(Date)

Jennifer A. Haynes, Ph.D., Reg. No. 48,868

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

MAY 22 2003

United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Dear Sir:

Enclosed for filing in the above-identified application are:

- (X) A Preliminary Amendment.
- (X) An Information Disclosure Statement.
- (X) A PTO Form 1449 with two (2) references.
- (X) The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Account No. 11-1410.
- (X) Return prepaid postcard.

Jennifer A. Haynes, Ph. D.
Registration No.48,868
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20,995
(415) 954-4114

HIKAR1.001APC

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant : Katsumata *et al.*

) Group Art Unit: not yet assigned
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Title : NOVEL PLASMID VECTOR

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 2327
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully request that the Amendment provided below be entered into the record for the present case.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please delete the paragraph on page 53 spanning lines 1-17, and replace it with the following substitute paragraph:

--(b) The methods for treating cancer using the vectors of the present invention also include treating cancer by introducing a drug metabolizing gene, also referred to as a suicide gene, into cancer cells. In this approach, a gene derived from microorganisms, which normally does not exist in the cells and encodes an enzyme involved in a certain metabolic pathway, is introduced by the vectors of the present invention into cancer cells. A prodrug (of an anti-microbial agent, in general) which is activated/exhibited cytotoxicity by the enzyme is then administered such that the cancer cells that have incorporated the gene are killed selectively. Examples of preferred combinations of a suicide gene and an associated prodrug include